

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of)
)
Application by Verizon New Jersey Inc.,)
Bell Atlantic Communications, Inc.)
(d/b/a Verizon Long Distance), NYNEX)
Long Distance Company (d/b/a Verizon) **CC Docket No. 01-347**
Enterprise Solutions), Verizon Global)
Networks Inc., and Verizon Select)
Services Inc., for Authorization to Provide)
In-Region, InterLATA Services in New Jersey)

Reply comments
Community Action Partnership

February 1, 2002

The Community Action Partnership (CAP) supports the comments submitted by the Alliance for Public Technology in support of Verizon's New Jersey 271 application as being in the public interest and of real benefit to telecommunications consumers in the State of New Jersey. CAP serves as a national forum for policy on poverty and to strengthen, promote, represent and serve its network of member agencies to assure that the issues of the poor are effectively heard and addressed. CAP advances the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health and civil rights of low-income Americans through community-based programs operating at more than 900 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) nationwide. It is CAP's mission to ensure that low-income Americans are not left behind.

The issue in this proceeding goes beyond that of Verizon entering the long distance market. The issue also encompasses providing competition in the state of New Jersey's long distance market that will play an important role in helping consumers save money. Specifically, competition can play a pivotal role in

bringing affordable long distance rates for residents of New Jersey.

While increased competition is one of our is a primary concerns, CAP also recognizes the importance of other telecommunications services, such as access to the Internet. CAP believes that allowing Verizon to enter the long distance market, providers of advanced telecommunications services will increase choice and decrease costs of these services. Many consumers today have access to toll-free Internet dial up services as well as high-speed Internet access. However, too many consumers are still waiting for reliable, toll-free Internet access in their area. Consumers that are without toll-free Internet access are forced to incur long-distance charges for the time they spend online, in addition to their Internet service provider service charges.

Low-income communities in New Jersey require greater competition in the long distance market. CAP urges the Federal Communications Commission to accept Verizon's application to ensure that consumers reap the benefit of increased competition. CAP, again, expresses that we agree with comments submitted by the Alliance for Public Technology in addressing this very important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

//s//

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